

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SY-10

OPR-02 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

NIC-01 USSS-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 042000Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4849

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 0085

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE KIDNAPPINGS

1. SUMMARY: THE PACE OF KIDNAPPINGS AGAIN SEEMS TO BE PICKING UP IN ARGENTINA. CURRENTLY IN THE HANDS OF KIDNAPPERS ARE TWO AMERICANS, ONE FRENCHMAN, AN ARMY COLONEL AND AT LEAST TWO OTHER ARGENTINES. END SUMMARY.

2. DOUGLAS ROBERTS, AN ARGENTINE AND A MANAGER OF THE PEPSI COLA COMPANY, WAS KIDNAPPED ON JAN 3 WHILE LEAVING HIS HOME IN A NORTHERN SUBURB OF BUENOS AIRES TO GO TO WORK.

3. THIS EVENT FOLLOWS THE JAN 2 KIDNAPPING OF JOSE LUDVIK, A RECENTLY RETIRED ARGENTINE BUSINESSMAN, AND YVES BOISSETT, A FRENCH CITIZEN AND PEUGOET EXECUTIVE, ON DEC 28.

4. STILL IN THE CUSTODY OF KIDNAPPERS ARE TWO AMERICANS, SAMUELSON AND HAYS, AND ARGENTINE ARMY COLONEL CRESPO.

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ESSO OIL CO. APPARENTLY IS COMPLYING WITH THE DEMAND TO

DISTRIBUTE A REPORTED \$10 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS IN POOR AREAS IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT SAMUELSON'S RELEASE.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SAMUELSON, CRESPO AND BOISSETT ARE BEING HELD BY THE ERP. HAYS AND ROBERTS ARE MOST LIKELY IN THE HANDS OF COMMON CRIMINALS. IN ANY EVENT, THE NEW RASH OF KIDNAPPINGS MUST BE EMBARRASSING TO THE GOA. INTENSIVE SEARCHES FOR CRESPO HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS. CRESPO'S WIFE HAS EVEN BEEN ALLOWED BY HIS CAPTORS TO VISIT HIM IN CAPTIVITY. THE GOA BADLY NEEDS A VICTORY OR TWO IF WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "ARGENTINA'S GROWTH INDUSTRY" IS NOT TO GET MUCH WORSE. THE CONFIDENCE OF FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN AND INVESTORS IS STEADILY ERODING.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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